

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 20, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McCarthy, Chairwoman Lowey and Ranking Member Granger:

The Novel Coronavirus continues to have an unprecedented impact on our nation's economy and our everyday way of life, including at universities across the country, which are working hard to ensure the safety and success of their students, faculty, and surrounding communities. At the same time, many of these universities are also on the frontlines in helping combat this virus through cutting-edge research. It is important to recognize the cost universities are incurring as part of our ongoing response to this pandemic.

At universities in Arizona, more than 150,000 students have been moved to online platforms to help reduce the spread of the virus while also ensuring students are able to complete their coursework with minimal disruption. Most faculty and staff have also been asked to telework instead of commuting to various campuses across the state daily.

Our universities are adapting to these changing circumstances; however, their efforts are not without significant costs. Arizona State University, for example, estimates their total financial impact to be approximately \$25 million. This preliminary estimate includes additional material expenses to enhance public health and public safety services and infrastructure; increased expenses for counseling, mentoring, coaching and other student services; increased expenses for technology hardware and services to deliver all courses online and lost revenue. Similarly, the University of Arizona estimates their financial impact to be around \$63 million, the majority attributable to revenue losses from shortfalls in tuition and fees, housing reimbursements, and cancelled events along with the costs for transitioning to online course delivery and public health protection measures. And Northern Arizona University estimates approximately \$10 million in financial impacts, including costs that have been necessary for public safety and health and to move to a primarily online learning environment while maintaining the residential campus in this new environment.

We appreciate the important work you have done to help combat the severe economic disruption caused by the Coronavirus, but we still have a long way to go. As you consider additional emergency measures, we urge you to ensure that the financial impacts to universities are fully examined and that provisions to ease these financial hardships are included in additional relief bills. It is critically important that universities across the nation are able to continue serving their students and communities without interruption.

Sincerely,



Greg Stanton
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



Paul Gosar, DDS
Member of Congress



Raúl Grijalva
Member of Congress



Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress



David Schweickert
Member of Congress



Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress



Debbie Lesko
Member of Congress